

Remarks/Arguments:

Introduction

Claims 51-90 are pending. Claims 68, 75, and 83 have been amended, *inter alia*, to be dependent claims. Now new matter is introduced with these amendments. Entry of the claim amendments is respectfully requested.

Election/Restriction

Claims 50-90 were subject to a restriction requirement as allegedly not being linked as to form a single general inventive concept as follows:

- Group I: Claims 50-63, drawn to a valve;
- Group II: Claims 64-71, drawn to a valve;
- Group III: Claims 72-79, drawn to a valve; and
- Group IV: Claims 80-90, drawn to a valve.

Applicants respectfully submit that the restriction requirement should read, as follows:

- Proposed Group I: Claims 50-67, drawn to a valve;
- Proposed Group II: Claims 68-74, drawn to a valve;
- Proposed Group III: Claims 75-82, drawn to a valve; and
- Proposed Group IV: Claims 83-90, drawn to a valve.

The Proposed Groups follow the independent claims of the subject application and further follow the alleged disclosed features of US 6,491,283 to Newberg. Accordingly, Attorney for the Applicants respectfully submit that the restriction offered by the examiner is in error, and that prosecution on the merits should proceed under the Proposed Groups suggested above.

Applicants provisionally elect Group I, i.e., claims 50-63, as proposed by the examiner with traverse to Proposed Group I, i.e., claims 50-67, as proposed by the Attorney for the Applicants. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 50-67 read on this election.

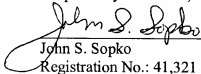
Summary

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 50-67 are in condition for examination on the merits. Upon indication of allowable subject matter, re-entry of withdrawn claims 68-90 is respectfully requested. Favorable action thereon is therefore respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments concerning the above, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number given below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any additional fees associated with this communication, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 08-2461. Such authorization includes authorization to charge fees for extensions of time, if any, under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 and also should be treated as a constructive petition for an extension of time in this reply or any future reply pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136.

Respectfully submitted,


John S. Sopko
Registration No.: 41,321
Attorney for Applicants

HOFFMANN & BARON, LLP
6900 Jericho Turnpike
Syosset, New York 11791
(973) 331-1700